Then you dealt with the question of instruction in infant welfare and maternity matters in Girls' Schools. The difficulty is that there are no qualified teachers to instruct girls on this subject ; besides, it cannot be made general in all schools to children of all ages. When the Government is in a position to provide an establishment for the purpose and find that a general need has arisen for such a purpose, the question will be taken up.

You dealt next with the subject of epidemics and you advocated the means of stemming them by a larger knowledge of matters of public health to be inculcated by lectures in purely rural areas. There again, you are faced with the difficulty of finding the necessary staff to lecture. But, if I may tender a word of advice to the large body of private practitioners in Travancore, they will be doing the State a good service and assisting the Government considerably if they will organise private lectures in various parts of Travancore.

You dealt with the question of an English Medical School in Travancore. There used to be one here for a number of years, and it turned out medical practitioners who have done good and faithful service to the State. The trouble about a medical school in Travancore is that it must of necessity be a very small institution with limited possibilities both on its instructional side and on its clinical side. Besides, there is no dearth of medical practitioners in Travancore who are well trained in institutions outside Travancore, both in British India and outside, and there is a supply of efficient men. There is therefore no need for us to have an institution here now.

You referred to the subject of grants-in-aid to Mission hospitals and private institutions. This is already being done on a fairly large scale.

As regards registration of medical practitioners, that question has already engaged the attention of the Administrative Board, Medical Services, and it is now being considered on its legislative side by our legal advisers, and I hope that it will not be long before we have a system of medical registration. I agree with you that it is a necessary measure of reform.

You referred to the need for a Tuberculosis Hospital. This also is engaging the attention of the Government. A site has been tentatively chosen and as soon as all preliminary arrangements are made, I hope that the Administrative Board will come before the Government with specific proposals. You may rest assured that such proposals will receive sympathetic consideration. Meanwhile, the dispensary treatment of tuberculosis has already been begun.

You propose the need for a Leprosy Regulation. May I draw your attention to Regulation III of 1077 which deals with the question of leprosy.

As regards more hospitals for women, I have yet to learn that the women of Travancore keep away from the general hospitals and dispensaries. There are a few women's hospitals already. Before long, I hope that the Women's Medical Service will come into being, and then I am convinced that they will take up and deal adequately with the question of sufficient medical aid for the requirements of the women of Travancore.

72. Need for a scheme for promotion of public health in the State with special reference to Educational Institutions, Municipalities, etc.

MR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATTU (*Member, Nominated*) said that health was the most important factor in the prosperity of a people. Diseases were the fell enemies of the health of the people. The Government were, no doubt, spending large amounts on hospitals and medicines but the protection of public health depended not on the number of hospitals or doctors or the amount spent on medicines but on the money spent for finding out the causes of, and remedies for eradicating, the several diseases. In England and other civilised countries, large amounts were being spent on the latter item. Many of the mortal diseases prevalent in the State were those which could be easily prevented. Greater attention should therefore be paid to the prevention of such diseases and the consequent protection of health. The Child Welfare Movement recently started in the State was a step in the right direction, but it

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was not sufficient. Regular propaganda work should also be undertaken. The Economic Development Board, under the auspices of which a few lectures on hygiene were conducted, should have an expert in education and another in medicine as members for doing more active propaganda work.

It was essential that the school-going children, who would be the future citizens of the State, acquired a knowledge of the elementary rules of hygiene. That subject should therefore be taught in schools whatever be the objections that might be brought forward against the proposal, such as increase in the number of subjects included in the curricula of studies or the need for inclusion of other and more important sujects in them. No doubt, hygiene was one of the optional subjects in Vernacular Schools. It should be taught in all schools and colleges. A syllabus of study should be framed for the purpose in accordance with the syllabus adopted in England for imparting instruction on hygiene in Training and Girls' Schools.

Besides lessons on health and hygiene, lessons on the sexual science should also be taught in schools along with Nature Study and Botany. Much harm was being caused to the health of the youth by ignorance of the elementary principles of the science. Lectures on the subject should also be arranged to be delivered in Vernacular Schools and Colleges.

The teachers and headmasters of schools should be persons possessing a knowledge of hygiene. Lectures on the subject were last year given for the benefit of teachers undergoing training in the Malayalam Training Schools. Such lectures benefited only a small minority of teachers. To benefit the schoolmasters as a whole, lectures should be given during meetings of the Vernacular School Teachers' Associations and during specially convened meetings of English School teachers. The lectures should be arranged through the Medical and Sanitary Departments and through Municipal Councils. Assistant Inspectors of Schools should make enquiries regarding the matter during their inspections. In Europe, America and Japan, magic lantern lectures on the subject and cinema shows were arranged besides distribution of leaflets.

The medical inspection of school-going children, already arranged to be conducted, was not adequate. Of the 200 departmental and private English Schools, inspection was done in 1101 only in 5 schools and even in them only in the Preparatory classes and in the third and sixth forms. No Vernacular School was inspected. The majority of the school-going children were in the Vernacular Schools and it was therefore necessary that they also be taken into account for purposes of medical inspection.

Many of the diseases prevalent among the school-going children, such as diarrhoea, fever, mental debility, madness, tuberculosis and heart diseases were the sequels of dental diseases. Ordinary doctors were therefore unable to find out their causes. In western countries, the staff for medical inspection of schools included a specialist in eye-diseases, a dentist and a nurse. The same principle should be adopted in Travancore also. The seriousness of dental diseases could be gathered from the fact that, in 1911, the Government of the United Kingdom, having found that 80 per cent. of the children under the age of 12 had some sort of dental disease or other, appointed 30 dental surgeons. In 1923, their number was raised to 469, and 15 lakhs of pupils were treated for dental diseases in that year.

Many poor students attending schools situated five or six miles away from their houses were having no noon-day meals. In a particular English School, 34 per cent. of the students were like that. The condition of Vernacular School pupils should necessarily be worse. In the interests of public health, the Government should take steps for providing noon-day meals to poor students without distinction of caste or creed. In that connection the member referred with appreciation and gratitude to the endowment by Mr. T. Padmanabha Rao for the purpose in the Sri Mula Vilasam School, Vanchiyur.

Lectures on public health and hygiene with the aid of magic lantern shows should be arranged by the Municipal Councils during fairs and festivals. Cinema companies should also be asked to show a few pictures demonstrating hygienic principles at the commencement of every show. It should be imposed as a condition precedent for the grant of licenses to the companies for exhibiting their films.

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Beggars suffering from contagious diseases and frequenting houses, bazaars, etc., were a source of menace to the public health. In order to prevent such contagion through their agency, the member made the following suggestions :—

(1) The Government should associate themselves with the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association and adopt its resolutions and effect the necessary reforms for the treatment of lepers.

(2) Beggars having incurable diseases should be prohibited from walking along public roads and more hospitals should be opened for their relief.

(3) A poor-house should be established for the benefit of the poor beggars, with the help of the generous public.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Koshy Palakunnattu, several of the points you have brought up in your present representation were also dwelt upon by the last speaker, Dr. Bhanu, and the remarks I have made in reference to that will apply to your representation as well.

As regards other points, which you have taken up newly, the Trivandrum Municipality, I understand, has bought a magic lantern, and I daresay other Municipalities who feel the need for that will also buy magic lanterns in course of time. And if they are put to good use, I have not the slightest doubt that the object you have in view will be secured.

Then you deal with medical inspection of school children. I quite agree with you that it is very desirable that school children should be periodically inspected medically, and I shall ask the Administrative Board, Medical Services, in conjunction with the Director of Public Instruction to have the matter carefully examined and proposals placed before the Government. But I am afraid it will be a long time before the Travancore Government can afford to attach, as you suggest, a Doctor, a Dental-oculist and a nurse to every educational institution in Travancore. I do not think that will be possible until such time as we have an educational and possibly a medical cess in Travancore. I would suggest your bringing up the question again — say in 1937.

You advocate education of children on one particular side of the physiological phenomena of existence. That carries us back to the vexed question, 'Should children be told?' The world outside India has not yet made up its mind on that question ; and as regards Travancore itself, if I know anything at all about the general feeling in the country, I think any such course of instruction in our schools would be strongly resented. I, therefore, am not prepared to take up that question.

As regards free distribution of pamphlets on hygiene among the people, the Government has not the slightest objection to free distribution being made by all who seek to do so. What is more, I can assure you that facilities will be afforded for the distribution of pamphlets by the Government officers.

Then you come to the need for providing mid-day meals for pupils in schools. We have one fine example set us and I have touched upon the matter in my Assembly address, and I do not think I can usefully add any more remarks to that.

73. Defects in the present system of Education.

MR. HARIHARA AIYAR ANANTASUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that the existing system of education was defective in that (i) it was imparted in a foreign language; (ii) it was divorced from the natural feeling, morality and religion and other character-forming elements; (iii) it was enormously costly; and (iv) it was unproductive in its results.

As regards the first, the member said that, whatever might have been the reasons for adopting the English language originally as the medium of instruction, those reasons no longer existed and that there was a growing feeling among the people that the system had brought more evil than good. The civilisation or the separate entity of a people depended on their religion, dress and language. If those elements in a nation were destroyed by another nation, the former would merge into the

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